**CLAIMS FOR NATIONAL PHASE**

CLAIMS

1. A method of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12) comprises calculating (32) a relevance function of the concept (12) with respect to said document on the basis of a known predetermined semantic neighborhood of the concept (12), and is characterized in that, if the document is considered to be relevant with respect to the concept:

    · there is calculated (42) an ambiguity function of said concept (12) in said document, which ambiguity function is different from the relevance function, said calculation being an estimation related to different meanings of the concept in document, and

    · a result of the calculation of the ambiguity function is associated (44) with the document considered to be relevant.

2. A method according to claim 1 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12), wherein the relevance function measures the presence of the concept (12) and of concepts from the semantic neighborhood (16) of that concept (12) in the document.

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12), wherein, when the semantic neighborhood of the concept (12) includes a plurality of semantic clouds (16) with different meanings, the ambiguity function compares the presence of concepts (12) belonging to a semantic cloud (16) corresponding to a predetermined meaning of the concept (12) with the presence of concepts belonging to different semantic clouds (16).

4. A method according to claim 3 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12),

wherein the presence of each of the concepts belonging to the different semantic clouds (16) is weighted by a predetermined coefficient.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12), including a preliminary step of detecting ambiguous concepts (18), i.e. concepts having a plurality of semantic clouds (16) with different meanings in the same semantic neighborhood.

6. A method according to claim 5 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12), wherein, during the preliminary detection step, two concepts are considered to be ambiguous (18A) if they are linked to each other by at least two different semantic links (14).

7. A method according to claim 5 or claim 6 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12), wherein, during the preliminary detection step, a concept is considered to be ambiguous (18B) if it is linked to at least two semantic clouds (16) with different meanings.

8. A method according to any one of claims 5 to 7 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12), wherein, the concept (12) belonging to a knowledge base (10) obtained by merging a first knowledge base (10A) with a second knowledge base (10B), the preliminary step of detecting ambiguous concepts is executed during merging.

9. A method according to claim 8 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12), wherein, during the ambiguous concept detection step, a concept from the first knowledge base (10A) is

considered to be ambiguous (18C) if it is linked by a
new link to another concept from the first knowledge
base (10A).

5    10. A method according to claim 8 or claim 9 of
estimating the relevance of a document with respect to
a concept (12), wherein, during the ambiguous concept
detection step, a concept from the first knowledge base
(10A) is considered to be ambiguous (18C) if it is
10   linked to a semantic cloud of the second knowledge base
(10B).